

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 are amended. Support for the amendments is provided, for example, in paragraphs [0010] and [0057] of the specification, and in Fig. 6. No new matter is added. Claims 6, 10, and 12-14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,985,332 B1 to Sluzewski et al. (hereinafter "Sluzewski"). The Office Action, in paragraph 8, rejects claims 3, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sluzewski in view U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0099054 A1 to Kamijima. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As conceded on page 5 of the Office Action, Sluzewski fails to disclose a head gimbal assembly comprising a heater element, as positively recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 8.

With regard to the rejection of claims 3, 7 and 11 in the Office Action, to any extent that it may now be considered applicable to claims 1, 4 and 8, as amended, the following applies. Sluzewski and Kamijima would not have suggested a head slider comprising a heater element having a second pole being conductible by way of the conductible support and the arm member, the magnetic head part bonded to the conductible support, and comprising the heater and an energizing electrode pad disposed on a first surface of the head slider on a side opposite from the conductible support. Applicants' specification describes the advantages of a head slider having the recited features, such as, for example, in paragraph [0010], in that the number of electrode pads, which should conventionally be 6 on a single surface of the head

slider, can be reduced to 5. Therefore, even when the head slider is made smaller, all the devices can be energized without reducing the size of each electrode pad.

In contrast, as shown in Fig. 3 and described in paragraph [0065] of Kamijima, the magnetic head slider disclosed in Kamijima has an element-forming surface 33 on which six electrode terminals 31 and 32 are disposed. Thus, Kamijima discloses the conventional configuration of six electrode pads being disposed on a single surface of the head slider. Kamijima fails to teach or to have suggested, a head slider in which the number of electrode pads disposed on a single surface of the head slider can be reduced to five. Kamijima also fails to recognize the advantage gained by the configuration recited in the pending claims. Sluzewski fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kamijima.

For at least these reasons, the combination of applied references would not have suggested the combinations of all of the features positively recited in claims 1, 4 and 8. Further, claims 3, 7 and 11 also would not have been suggested by the combination of applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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